

Executive Registry

177-3687/3

29 MAR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: William W. Wells  
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT: The Covert Action Briefing Paper for  
Presentation to the Senate Foreign  
Relations Committee

1. Attached are briefings papers on the Agency covert action programs for your appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday. The attachments include a statement (with associated back-up documents) providing a summary status report covering developments on our covert action programs since the Committee was last provided a similar summary report on 10 May 1976. Where Presidential decisions have been reached and the Special Coordination Committee so informed, these are reflected in the statement.

2. The statement is prepared so that you have two options in its presentation. The first eight pages cover the subject programmatically indicating the status of each program covered by a Presidential Finding under the provisions of the Hughes/Ryan amendment. Pages 9 through 17 put these programs into a geographic context. You may wish to drop the latter run-down in the interest of time.

3. There is little leeway for other optional approaches, since the task is essentially reportorial in character.

Signed/William W. Wells

William W. Wells

cc: DDCI

Attachments, a/s

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77-3689

10 March 1977

NOTE FOR: The Director

FROM : E. H. Knoche, DDCI

For sometime I have been bugging the Senate Select Committee to come up with a public statement on the state of American intelligence. Our own credibility in issuing a "posture statement" needs time to develop and we have felt the SSCI should stand up to the plate to take positions and commend us and criticize us in a public way. The Senate Resolution that created the Committee calls for such a report.

About ten days ago Danny Inouye told me the staff is now at work on a report to the Senate that will go public. He said he thought the field of covert action is a particularly difficult one to cover. Specifically, on-going actions cannot be discussed, but he asked me to help in coming up with a paper that would discuss CA philosophically while saying something reasonably specific about historic CA operations.

This draft is educational and will, I think, help. With your approval, I would like to give it to Chairman Inouye.

Executive Registry

77-3689/1

E. H. Knoche

Please go ahead - I do believe it has some pitfalls - some examples of covert action are really clandestine collection - e.g. Khrushchev's speech; others are going to be questioned today as to whether they were proper & useful, e.g. especially close air support ops

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17-3689

ER

10 March 1977

NOTE FOR: The Director

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 E. H. Knoche

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# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Covert Action

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

7 Mar 77

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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A/DDCI

Per our telecon, here is a redraft of last week's paper. I think it incorporates DDCI's suggestions. It is also toned down appreciably. Let me know what you think of it.

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